

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A packaging container for an article, comprising:

a box adjustable between an open configuration and a closed configuration, said

5 box comprising:

a plurality of side panels and a bottom arranged to define a storage compartment and an opening, said storage compartment being accessible through said opening when said box is in said open configuration;

a first flap and a second flap forming a first pair of opposing flaps,  
10 each of said first and second flaps being attached to a corresponding side panel of said plurality of side panels and adapted for folding across at least a portion of said opening when said box is in said closed configuration; and

a second pair of opposing flaps, each flap of said second pair of opposing flaps being attached to a corresponding side panel of said plurality of side  
15 panels and adapted for folding across at least a portion of said opening when said box is in said closed configuration; and

a sheet having a first end affixed to said first flap and a second end affixed to said second flap, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

a first portion of said sheet is within said storage compartment;  
20 a second portion of said sheet is between said first flap and at least one flap of said second pair of opposing flaps; and

a third portion of said sheet is between said second flap and at least one flap of said second pair of opposing flaps.

25 2. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

said second portion of said sheet is between said first flap and said second pair of opposing flaps; and

said third portion of said sheet is between said second flap and said second pair of  
30 opposing flaps.

3. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said sheet is affixed solely to said first and second flaps.

4. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration, said sheet is adapted to retain the article between said first portion of said sheet and at least one flap selected from said first and second pairs of flaps.

5. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration, said sheet is adapted to retain the article between said first portion of said sheet and each of said first and second pairs of flaps.

6. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said sheet comprises one or more thermoplastic polymers.

7. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said sheet comprises one or more fabrics.

8. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said sheet has an elastic recovery in at least one direction of at least about 60%, measured according to ASTM D5459-95 at 100% strain, 30 seconds relaxation time, and 60 second recovery time.

9. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein the sheet comprises polyurethane.

10. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said sheet has a free shrink in at least one direction measured at 160°F of at least about 7%.

11. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said sheet has a size sufficient to extend across substantially the entirety of said opening.

12. The packaging container of Claim 1, further comprising a second sheet having a first end affixed to said first flap and a second end affixed to said second flap, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

a first portion of said second sheet is within said storage compartment;

5 a second portion of said second sheet is between said first flap and at least one flap of said second pair of opposing flaps; and

a third portion of said second sheet is between said second flap and at least one flap of said second pair of opposing flaps.

10 13. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said first end of said sheet is affixed to said first flap proximate to the outer edge of the first flap distal to said side panel corresponding to said first flap.

14. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein:

15 said first end of said sheet is affixed to said first flap proximate to the outer edge of the first flap distal to said side panel corresponding to said first flap; and

said second end of said sheet is affixed to said second flap proximate to the outer edge of the second flap distal to said side panel corresponding to said second flap.

20 15. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said storage compartment is in the shape of a polyhedron.

16. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein said box comprises cardboard.

25 17. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

said first and second flaps are adapted for substantially abutting contact with each other when the first and second flaps are folded across at least a portion of said opening; and

30 said first and second flaps taken together extend across substantially the entirety of said opening.

18. The packaging container of Claim 1, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

5       said first and second flaps are adapted not to contact each other when folded across at least a portion of said opening; and  
      said first and second flaps taken together do not extend across substantially the entirety of said opening.

19. A packaging container for an article, comprising:

10       a box adjustable between an open configuration and a closed configuration, said box comprising:

      a plurality of side panels and a bottom arranged to define a storage compartment and an opening, said storage compartment being accessible through said opening when said box is in said open configuration;

15       a first flap and a second flap forming a first pair of opposing flaps, each of said first and second flaps being attached to a corresponding side panel of said plurality of side panels and adapted for folding across at least a portion of said opening when said box is in said closed configuration; and

      a third flap attached to a corresponding side panel of said plurality of side panels and adapted for folding across at least a portion of said opening when said box is in said closed configuration; and

20       a sheet having a first end affixed to said first flap and a second end affixed to said second flap, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

25       a first portion of said sheet is within said storage compartment;  
      a second portion of said sheet is between said first flap and said third flap; and

      a third portion of said sheet is between said second flap and said third flap.

20. A packaged article, comprising:  
said packaging container of Claim 1 wherein said box is in said closed configuration; and  
an article within said storage compartment and retained between said first portion of said sheet and at least one flap selected from said first and second pairs of flaps.

21. The packaged article of Claim 20, wherein said article is retained between  
5 said first portion of said sheet and each of said first and second pairs of flaps.

22. The packaged article of Claim 20, further comprising a cushioning insert between said article and at least one flap selected from said first and second pairs of flaps.

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23. The packaged article of Claim 20, further comprising a cushioning insert between said article and said first portion of said sheet.

24. The packaged article of Claim 20, further comprising means for securing said  
15 box in said closed configuration.

25. A method of packaging an article, comprising:  
providing a packaging container comprising:

20 a box adjustable between an open configuration and a closed configuration, said box comprising:

a plurality of side panels and a bottom arranged to define a storage compartment and an opening, said storage compartment being accessible through said opening when said box is in said open configuration;

25 a first flap and a second flap forming a first pair of opposing flaps, each of said first and second flaps being attached to a corresponding side panel of said plurality of side panels and adapted for folding across at least a portion of said opening when said box is in said closed configuration; and

a second pair of opposing flaps, each flap of said second pair of opposing flaps being attached to a corresponding side panel of said plurality of side panels and adapted for folding across at least a portion of said opening when said box is in said closed configuration; and

5 a sheet having a first end affixed to said first flap and a second end affixed to said second flap, wherein when said box is in said closed configuration:

a first portion of said sheet is within said storage compartment;

10 a second portion of said sheet is between said first flap and at least one flap of said second pair of opposing flaps; and

a third portion of said sheet is between said second flap and at least one flap of said second pair of opposing flaps; and

positioning said box in said open configuration;

placing an article to be packaged on said sheet;

15 folding said second pair of flaps across at least a portion of said opening; and

subsequently folding said first pair of opposing flaps across at least a portion of said opening and over said second pair of flaps to place said box in said closed configuration and to retain said article between said first portion of said sheet and at least one flap selected from said first and second pairs of flaps.

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26. The method of Claim 25, further comprising retaining said article between said first portion of said sheet and each of said first and second pairs of flaps.

25 27. The method of Claim 25, further comprising securing said box in the closed configuration.

28. The method of Claim 25, wherein said sheet has a heat shrink initiation temperature and further comprising subsequent to said folding steps heating said sheet to a temperature above said heat shrink initiation temperature of said sheet.

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29. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of placing a cushioning insert on the article on the sheet before said folding steps.